(2) No casuality/adverse reaction to either the Injection or tablet. MEM has been reported.

(3) The Drug Inspector, Ratnagiri Maharashtra State has initiated action under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, based upon the test reports received in respect of Injection MEM.

**Action Plan to Curb Rabies Deaths**

460. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of the 75,000 deaths recorded due to rabies a year worldwide, India contributes to around 35,000 deaths; and

(b) if so, whether any nation-wide action plan has been drawn up to effectively curb and contain this menace, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM):

(a) and (b) According to the figures made available by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence the number of deaths on account of rabies during last three years are as follows:

| Year | Deaths |
|---|---|
| 1996 | 281 |
| 1997 | 386 |
| 1998 | 365 |

During the Sixth Plan period a programme on limited scale for control of canine rables was sanctioned in 16 States and Union Territories. Each State/UT was allocated 1 to 2 canine rabies control units. An amount of Rs. 117 lakh and Rs. 192 lakh and Rs. 334 lakh were earmarked as Central assistance for these programme during the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plan.

During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 70 lakh was provided under this Programme. This Programme is being continued during the Ninth Plan. At present a total of about 60 canine rabies control Units are functioning in the country.

**Opening of CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi**

461. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy and criteria followed by Government for providing CGHS dispensaries in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken for opening of dispensaries for the I.P. Extension and Patparganj where many Central Government employees are residing; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) As per existing policy of the Government for opening of new CGHS dispensaries in a CGHS covered city, there should be concentration of 2000 to 2500 Central Government Employees/Pensioners in a particular area of 3 to 4 km. radius where the dispensary is required to be opened.

(b) the Indraprastha Vistar Sahakari Awas Societies Mahasangh Limited, Patparganj, have intimated that about 4000 Central Government Employees/ Pensioners are residing there.

(c) At present, the Central Governemnt employees and pensioners residing in Patparganj and I.P. Extension are served by the nearest CGHS dispensaries at Laxmi Nagar, Gandhi Nagar- Krishna Nagar-Geeta Colony and Myur Vihar. While there are pleas to establish new CGHS dispensaries, this depends on the over availability of resources.

**Recognition of Medical Diploma of Russian Universities**

462. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical diplomas of certain Russian Universities are not recognised by the Indian Medical Council;

(b) if so, why Indian students are allowed to take admissions in such Universities; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that the Indian students coming out from such Universities do not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Medical qualifications of only 29 medical institutions in the erstwhile U.S.S.R. including Russia, are recognised qualifications when held by Indian citizens under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. However, recognition of the medical qualification 'M.D. Physician' granted by two institutions, namely, Daghestan State Medical Institute in Russia and Azarbaijan Medical Institute in Azarbaijan has been limited upto 31st December, 2005.

(b) Indian students go to study medicine in the above institutions on their own.